

In Memoriam

Thomas Oughton



1825—1894.

James B. Smith
* 1836/.

THOMAS OUGHTON



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From a Photograph
1891.

In Memoriam

THOMAS OUGHTON

1825-1894

c by
Marie Abigail Oughton

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In Memoriam

"WHAT DOTTH THE LORD REQUIRE OF THEE, BUT TO DO JUSTLY,
AND TO LOVE MERCY, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH THY GOD?"

The following lines were written on the fly-leaf of a little book Mr Oughton gave me as I was leaving Jamaica for America in 1854, and are inserted in this Memorial as indicating his ideas on the eternity of congenial companionship :—

*“ Though travelling through a wilderness,
Where duty’s call divides us,—
Though many a wintry storm distress,—
The Star of Hope shall guide us.*

*“ And this shall cheer the lonely way,
And gild the gloom of sorrow ;
And through the shades of parting day,
Point to a brighter morrow.*

*“ E’en should this star be clouded here,
And should we meet—oh, never !
The transient joys of life to share,
'Twill not be dimmed forever.*

*“ No !—we shall meet, though parted here,
To part again—oh, never !
But joyful with our Saviour there,
To spend a long Forever !”*

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PREFATORY WORDS
BIOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE

PREFATORY WORDS

THIS Memorial of my Husband is justified by its contents. My first thought was that our children and their children would prize it as a precious treasure; but I have been made to know that, besides his near relatives, many friends who greatly loved him desire that such tributes as are here collected should take a permanent form.

Except to give a brief outline of his life, I do not trust myself to speak of him. It is not necessary that I should do so. What can be expressed in words (which can express only a part) has been done for me, and I am grateful and satisfied.

The chief influences which combined to form my Husband's rare character are seen in the reminiscences of his childhood and youth, and early manhood, written by his sister, Mrs Paxton Hood, whose estimate of his worth is marked by clear insight and just appreciation, and is founded upon intimate knowledge, the result of long association and complete sympathy.

My brother, Colonel Hicks, making his home with us in 1870, soon came to be and ever continued to be on such terms of closest intimacy with his brother, that no

one can set forth with greater certainty what manner of man he was. My brother's delineation of my Husband's characteristic traits and habits of life, exemplified by illustrative incidents, presents a portraiture in which I recognise the features of the companion of my life.

Upon the death of my Husband, a multitude of friends made kindly haste to comfort me and mine with letters of sympathy and appreciation of the greatness of our bereavement, and there was a general public expression of regret and esteem by the press, in the courts, by ministers of religion, and by public associations. I tender sincere thanks for these testimonies, which are highly valued ; but it would not be practicable to embody all in this Memorial. Some portions, however, have been selected, sufficient to indicate the impress my Husband made upon others throughout his life. The selections have been so made as to be representative,—from friends who knew him intimately and continuously for many years ; from those who knew him intimately in former years ; from those who knew him intimately in later years ; from those whose acquaintance with him, though very brief, had disclosed to them some of his rare qualities ; from those who knew him in official or business relations, or in social companionship, or in religious life.

To the writer of one of the letters, the Rev. William Gillies, and to my brother, I am greatly indebted for counsel and aid in making representative selections from the abundant store, so as to present my Husband as seen from many points of view, and to preserve in this form some of the many comforting messages of Christian con-

solation and hope which have been received. The words of sympathy and esteem here published represent the words, written and spoken, of many other friends, who will find their own thoughts and feelings expressed in the selections which have been made.

BIOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE

By COLONEL HICKS.

BIRTH AND PARENTAGE.

Thomas Oughton was born in London, December 27, 1825.

His father, the Rev. Samuel Oughton, came to Jamaica in 1835 as a Baptist Missionary, and took an active part in the closing efforts to abolish slavery in the British West India Islands. For many years he was Pastor of the East Queen Street Baptist Church, Kingston, and was held in high esteem as a man of more than ordinary power in the pulpit and on the platform. In England he had married Hannah Bancroft, a native of Gloucestershire. During her life in Jamaica she wrote a number of poems, which were collected into a small volume, entitled "Fugitive Pieces," and published for private distribution. The children of this marriage (besides those who died in infancy) were:—

1. THOMAS.

2. ELLEN—who died at Lucea, Jamaica, when ten years of age.

3. LAVINIA—widow of the late Rev. Edwin Paxton Hood of England, the celebrated preacher and author.
4. BURCHELL—for many years the distinguished Superintendent of the Mico Institution (for training Teachers) in Antigua, and, in his later years, Superintendent of the "Home for Little Boys," Farningham, England. Died 8th July 1887.
5. TYLER—a Surgeon in the British Army, serving with distinction in Afghanistan, Abyssinia, and Ahashtee, and retiring with the rank of Brigade-Surgeon. Died in England, May 1886.
6. GEORGE—an officer in the Government Statistical Department, Sydney, Australia.
7. MARIANA—married to Mr Ernest Stevenson, Civil Engineer, Manchester, England.

EDUCATION.

When his father removed to Jamaica, Thomas was left in England for his education. At first he attended an excellent school in Stroud, Gloucestershire, near where his great-grandmother lived, whose home was a most delightful home for the young school-boy. Afterwards, for a more advanced course, he was sent to the Fulneck Boys' School (Moravian), near Leeds.

CHOICE OF A PROFESSION.

Having completed the prescribed course of study at Fulneck, Thomas left the school, and soon after joined

the family in Jamaica. For a few months the question of the choice of a profession remained in doubt, many of his friends believing that he would follow in his father's footsteps. However, after the fullest deliberation, the choice was made to study for the Law.

PROFESSIONAL STUDY.

Thomas was articled at first to Mr Charles Harvey, Solicitor and Master in Chancery, Spanish Town. Subsequently, the articles were transferred to Mr Alfred Rodgers, Solicitor, Falmouth; but (excepting the last six months of the articulated term) he remained at Spanish Town, which was then the seat of Government and of the chief Law Courts, acting as the Law Agent of Mr Rodgers while pursuing his professional studies. This enabled him to gain a very complete knowledge of the practical details of his chosen profession.

PROFESSIONAL WORK.

Thomas Oughton was admitted to practice as Solicitor on the 12th February 1851. He first joined Mr James Allwood, Solicitor, of Spanish Town, as Managing Clerk, and afterwards became the junior partner in the firm of Allwood & Oughton.

Upon the expiry of the articles of this co-partnership in 1864, he removed to Kingston, where he established a Law Office. In the same year he was appointed Solicitor to the Kingston Benefit Building Society.*

* In the formation of this very useful Society, the parent of many other Building Societies in Jamaica, he was intimately associated with the late

In 1870 Mr Henry Garsia, Solicitor, joined him in partnership, the firm becoming Oughton & Garsia. In 1872 the scope of his professional work was enlarged by his appointment as Advocate, whereby he was empowered to exercise the functions of Barrister in addition to those of Solicitor. In 1894 Mr Charles Macdonald Ogilvie, Solicitor, became a partner in the firm, which took the style of Oughton, Garsia & Ogilvie, which style the surviving partners still retain.

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS.

In 1871, and again in 1874, Mr Oughton was appointed to act as Crown Solicitor and Assistant Attorney-General; in 1876, 1877, and 1878 he was acting Judge of the Kingston District Court; in 1875, acting Attorney General; in 1885, acting Judge of the Central District Court; in 1888, acting Resident Magistrate of Kingston—an office taking the place of former District Court Judge. In 1872 he was appointed Clerk of the Legislative Council, which position he held until his death.

OTHER PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS.

Besides the foregoing, Mr Oughton held the honorary appointment, under Government, of Visitor to the Public Hospital, and Member of the Board of Visitors of the Shortwood Training College.

Rev. Wm. Gardiner, its chief founder, and rendered essential service; and he performed, gratuitously, the duties of Secretary, until the Society was well established and in a position to employ a salaried officer.

Soon after removing to Kingston he was appointed by the English Trustees of the Mico Trust a Member of the Local Board of Visitors, now merged into the Board of Directors. He also served as Director of the Jamaica Co-operative Fire Insurance Company, and other Companies.

HOME LIFE.

In 1855, at Rockford, in the State of Illinois, he married Miss Marie Abigail Hicks, to whom he had become engaged during her residence in Jamaica, where for two years she had been a missionary teacher under the auspices of the American Missionary Association. After the wedding tour, which included a visit to the Falls of Minnehaha on the Upper Mississippi, they began their home life at Mulberry Garden, Spanish Town. During the greater part of his Kingston life their home was at his residence, Bel Air, bordering upon the city limits, and his mountain residence, Bardowie, in St Andrew,—to both of which homes he became fondly attached.

Four children were born of this marriage, of whom two survive him :—

1. ANNA—wife of Mr John D'Aeth, Engineer in the Public Works Department, Jamaica. They have one son, John Bancroft.
2. LILLIE—died 27th January 1880, aged 20 years.
3. THOMAS BANCROFT, LL.B., Lond. Univ. Barrister. Now Clerk to the Legislative Council and Assistant Attorney-General. Married,

June 1889, Miss Nettie Ogilvie. They have three children,—Thomas Bancroft ; Burchell Ogilvie ; Nettie Marjorie.

4. EDITH—married Mr Geo. Montague White, February 1891. Died at Barbados, December 15th, 1891, aged 21 years.

Mr Oughton's health, during his long residence in Jamaica, was exceptionally good up to the year 1887, and his hours of professional labour and mental occupation were much beyond the average. In 1887 he had a slight paralytic stroke, which laid him aside from his work for only a few days ; but he never fully recovered his former vigorous state of health. He had given himself, from time to time, periods of relaxation, making visits to America, Antigua, England, and the Continent. His last visit abroad was to America, in 1893, when he spent a short time at the Dansville Sanitorium, and visited the World's Fair, and re-visited the scene of his marriage, where he enjoyed a few weeks of delightful rest on the quiet farm.

He had intended to retire from law practice at the close of 1893 ; but afterwards it seemed to him desirable that the retirement should not take place until the end of 1894 ; and his health had so much improved by his visit to America that he felt sufficiently strong to continue his work.

DEATH AND BURIAL.

On the 31st of May, 1894, he left his home in as good health, apparently, as for many months previous. Re-

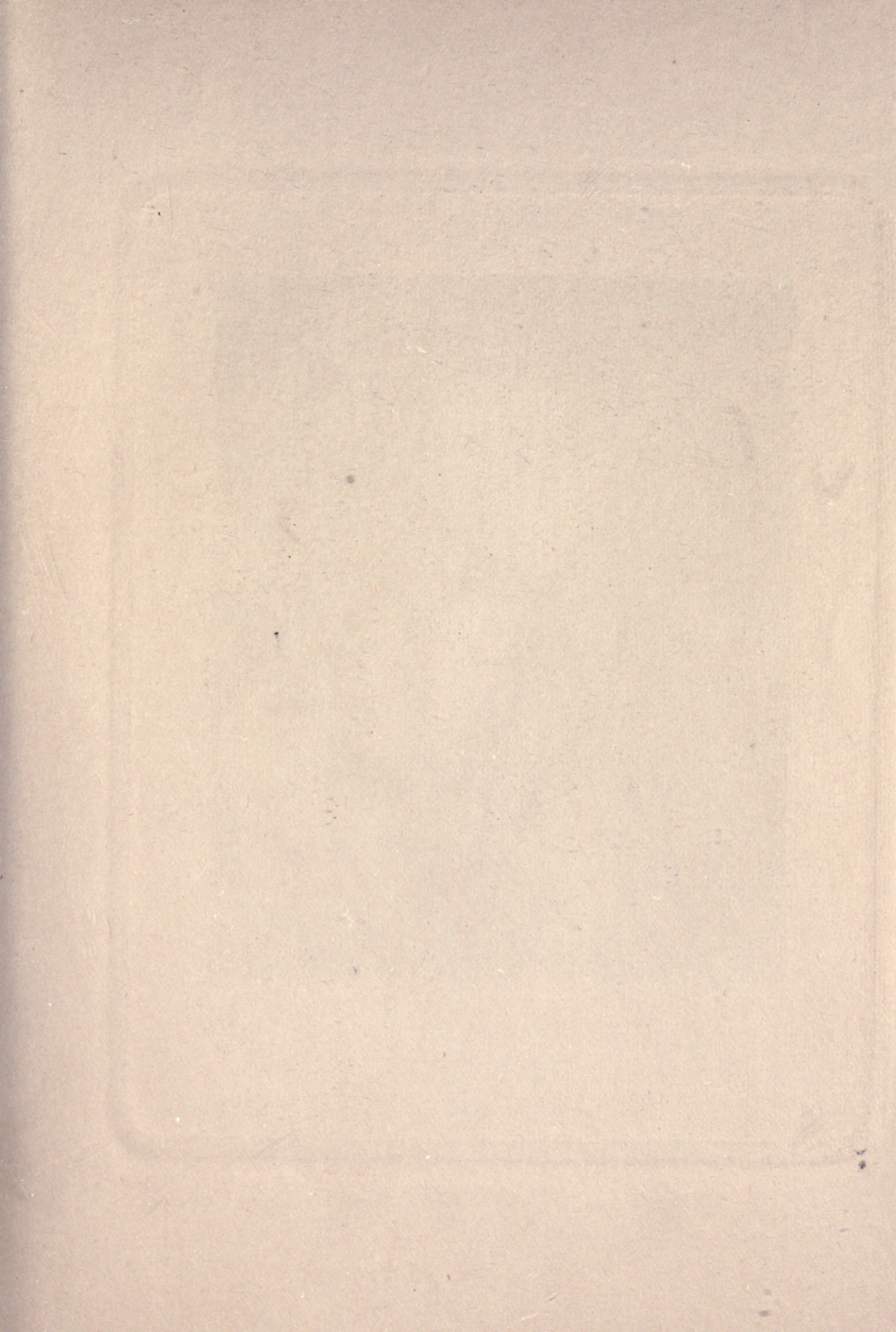
turning in the evening later than usual, just upon entering his residence he experienced a second and fatal paralytic stroke, and remained unconscious until death occurred the next morning at 3.30 o'clock.

That evening his funeral service was held in the East Queen Street Baptist Church, and he was buried in May Pen Cemetery. On the Sunday following his death, Bishop Hanna, of the Moravian Church, preached, extempore, a commemorative sermon from the text "He served his generation"; and in several pulpits, tributes of esteem and affection were paid to his memory. On the next Sunday the Rev. Wm. Pratt, M.A., Pastor of the East Queen Street Baptist Church, preached the funeral sermon, portions of which appear among the Memorial Tributes.

[Other particulars of Mr Oughton's life will be gathered from references and statements incidentally made in the Tributes to his memory which have been selected for this Memorial.]

I

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES





*From an Oil Painting
at the Age of 18.*

I.

From MRS PAXTON HOOD, England.

I WISH I could get at my dear brother's letters, most of which I have preserved ; but as they are far from me, and unavailable, I must write without them. Some of them might well appear in a memorial volume ; for the wisdom, humour, and kindly affectionate character of his letters to me would be very interesting to many from whom his natural reserve had concealed the deeper parts of his nature.

I was ten years old before I had any personal knowledge of him. He was then a lad of eighteen, and had just left school. There were little traditions of his childhood which my mother "kept in her heart," and which floated down to me.

I have heard that he was a very silent and thoughtful child, and would sit for hours in his high chair, his elbows resting on the table and both thumbs in his mouth. Once when he had been sitting in this way for some time, our mother said to him, "Well, Tom, what are you thinking about?" To which he replied, "I was wondering, Mamma, where the devil was when the world was drowned ! Was he in the ark?"

Another story of his childhood which I remember to

have heard was that, on the solitary occasion on which he was ever punished, his mother desired him to go into the garden and gather a twig for his own punishment. Whenever this was mentioned to him in his after-life, he used to say, "I daresay I took care to get one which would not hurt much!"

He was little more than ten years of age when our Father and Mother and their younger children sailed for Jamaica, leaving Tom in England under the care of his great-grandmother in Gloucestershire. There he was sent to school to a Mr Reid, whom I have heard described as a most accomplished and superior man, whose school was one of high repute in Stroud and the neighbourhood. Here the boy worked well and distinguished himself by his ability, industry, and the high moral tone of his character. At the age of fourteen it was thought desirable to make a change in his school, and he was sent to the Moravian School at Fulneck near Leeds. Here he at once took a good position, and was respected by masters and boys. He chose as his friend the boy whose character and attainments had given him a very foremost rank in the school; and together the two boys worked all during the next four years, finding mutual stimulus in each other's industry, talent, and character, so that when at the age of eighteen Thomas said farewell to Fulneck, he and his friend Jackson Shaw were the two chiefs of the school.

The influence of those four years at Fulneck was never lost to them, and to some influences of his earlier life in Gloucestershire may be ascribed the fine modest

manliness of character for which he has ever been distinguished. Three names and two places were ever the most sacred in his memory, and never mentioned by him without a reverent seriousness which showed how deeply they had influenced him ;—the names of Elizabeth Cousins, Hester King, and Jackson Shaw. These two ladies, relatives of his and older than himself, sought to influence his character and to develop that which was highest and deepest in him, helping to strengthen his religious feelings into religious life, as good women have so often done for those who needed and were willing to receive their help. Of these two sweet women, both of whom died young, he never failed to speak with reverent affection and gratitude, which seemed like a halo round their memory. Of Jackson Shaw he spoke in the same way, showing how open his heart had ever been to the influences which best strengthen and deepen character. So the homes in Gloucestershire and the influence of Fulneck endeared both places to his affections, and enshrined them in his heart to the end of his life.

His modesty was such that few except those intimately acquainted with him knew how accomplished a man he was. To the more substantial and essential branches of education, he added the graces of Music and Drawing, excelling especially in the latter accomplishment, whilst his musical knowledge was sufficient to enable him to act as Organist for many years in his father's Church. He was also a good French scholar and a good Grecian and Italianist.

After leaving school he was for a short time a clerk

in the Baptist Mission House in London, but at the end of the same year, 1843, he went out to our parents in Jamaica. Here he came again under good and helpful influence in that of his friend, the Rev. George Rouse, who was at that time his father's assistant and co-pastor. I believe he was baptized on Christmas day, 1844, and so admitted into his father's Church.

In 1846, I, a delicate school girl, was ordered by my doctor not to spend another winter in England, and returned to Jamaica, my education very crude and incomplete. Then began that wonderful relationship between my brother and me, which made him not only my chief friend, but very love of my life, second to none until I learned to know him who became my husband. My brother undertook my education, and I read and studied under his direction for several years. I have much to thank him for in many ways, not only intellectually, but morally and spiritually. He sought to give to both manners and character of thought and feeling the highest tone. I remember how strongly he expressed himself on what ladies might do or say. No one ever heard him use or encourage a word of slang. He impresses me now, as I think of him, as having been altogether "pure in heart."

I am writing hurriedly, recalling those nine years in which we were most intimate and close friends; and now that I can scarcely see* to write more I can but add that in all those years he was ever my wisest counsellor, my

* It is hoped that the cataract from which my dear sister is suffering may soon be successfully removed by the oculist.

dearest and best friend, and my most tender and loving brother—respected as much as loved; for he was good to the core,—a true, pure, loyal, modest gentleman, “*sans peur et sans reproche*.” My Father once said to me, as we were talking of him in these more recent years,—“Thomas is perfect; if he has a fault it is that he is so faultless!” Certainly it may be said of him,—He did justly, loved mercy, and walked humbly with his God.

II

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES



II.

From Colonel HICKS.

THE loss to myself, in the death of my beloved brother, is very great. I find comfort in recalling our many years of intimate loving friendship and genial interplay of thought and feeling, and in dwelling upon the life that so greatly enriched my own life, as it did the lives of many others. But the sense of personal loss is still so vivid that I find it difficult calmly to consider and enumerate the qualities and characteristics which distinguished him, and made his friendship and intimacy inexpressibly dear to me.

His character was staunch. It was built upon firm foundations. It was based upon a reverent faith, as towards God, and a conscientious sense of right and duty, as towards man. Upon these foundations was built in youth and maintained throughout life a character as lovable as it was staunch, as beautiful as it was upright. "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are gracious,"—these were habitually manifest in his life; they were his life.

Recalling the varied traits of his character—each

having its own separate quality of excellence—I am reminded of Lowell's poem, in which he says :

“ Of all good things I would have part.”

The poet therefore begs choice gifts of Nature : of the oak, some of its steadfastness with its leafy gracefulness ; the unyielding might of the granite ; the pensiveness and the never-dying green of the pine tree ; the merriment, the sparkling, bright content of the brook ; and the modesty of the violet. Such a blending of qualities characterised him whose loss to us we so deeply feel. This blending of the strong with the graceful, unswerving principle with gentle courtesy, a firm sense of duty with loving sympathy, attracted others to him with a desire to know him, and, by those who knew him, caused him to be so implicitly trusted and so tenderly loved. In a remarkable degree his character fulfilled the ideal of the English poet who aspired to be like the noble river Thames :—

“ Though deep, yet clear ; though gentle yet not dull ;
Strong, without rage ; without o'erflowing, full.”

How gentle he was,—gentle in word and gentle in manner ! How sympathetic ! His was “ that sweet, attractive kind of grace ” ascribed to Sidney. Children and dumb animals were instinctively his friends. How thoughtful and considerate was he for others ; how forbearing and tolerant and patient ! It was due to his kindly nature, no less than to his wise judgment, that, without any surrender of honest conviction or compromise

of principle, he avoided unnecessary frictions and raspings in his intercourse with others. In private circles and in public gatherings it was he, oftentimes, who found the needed word which served as the wished-for irenicon to harmonize aroused antagonisms. Let him be called a "child of God"; for he was a peacemaker. His genial temper and winning ways, combined with his alertness of mind and ready resource, enabled him to fill with special acceptableness the position of chairman at public meetings, for which his services were frequently sought.

Though simple in his tastes he was not an ascetic. His sympathies were wide. His feelings of kindness towards his fellow-men, of whatever class, caused him to sympathise with them in their rightful pleasures no less than in their griefs. He shared, sincerely and truly—and did not simply *appear* to share—in the enjoyments of many grades of society. When he mingled with friends among the humbler classes, there was no suggestion of condescension on his part.

He was fond of indulging himself in the pleasure of giving pleasure to others. He delighted in bestowing gifts. With him, assuredly, "it was more blessed to give than to receive." His gifts of friendship were many, but I have lately had reason to believe that his gifts of charity were more abundant. It is only since his death that it has come to my knowledge incidentally, from intimations here and there, how many have had cause to bless him for his kind gifts in their time of special need. He was charitable, also, in his thought for others. He was inclined—like Joubert—"if a friend were blind of one eye, to look

at him in profile." He was patient with evil-doers. He did not long cherish resentments, however justifiable they may have been. An instance of this charity in thought and in deed I will mention. One who had received favours from him, afterwards charged him with unjust dealing; and after the charge had been wholly disproved (at the cost to him of much precious time), the accuser, finding himself in sore need of assistance, came to the man he had so greatly wronged by his accusations, and appealed to him for aid; and the appeal was not fruitless.

Among his prominent traits was a modesty of rare quality. This pervaded all his speech. His opinions were never obtruded, nor uttered with self-confident emphasis. He was a little chary of his words, which were worth not less but rather more than their face value. He was singularly reticent in regard to any thing that seemed to savour of personal worth or achievement. During the period of our close intimacy—nearly a quarter of a century—he was engaged, as advocate or solicitor, in some noted *causes celebres*, and he gained some signal successes; but I never caught from his lips a syllable or a tone of boastful exultation or a hint of self-praise. The absence of self-assertion was very marked. It is not an essential feature of a modest character that one refrain from asking for appointment to an official position for which he finds himself to be well fitted; but it is a fact, worthy of mention, that all of Mr Oughton's various appointments to positions of public trust came to him without his solicitation.

In private life as in public life he was unobtrusive

of self. Ever ready to take upon himself trouble for others, he was extremely solicitous that he should not be a cause of trouble to others, and he often suffered discomforts which, had he given the slightest hint, his friends would most gladly have removed. But it was his way, to endure physical pain and mental pain in brave silence. Once (I have never been able to account for it) a gratuitous aspersion was cast upon his professional character; and when, in due time, the wrong was righted and the vindication came most complete and most emphatic, the evident depth of his feeling of relief and satisfaction was the only sign his friends ever had how deeply he had felt the wound.

But in the hour of bereavement he was not unwilling that others should enter into his sorrow and share his grief. Such a loving nature could not feel the loss of loved ones lightly, and he welcomed the sympathy of any trusted friend. The great bereavements of his life,—the loss of two daughters, both exceptionally bright and gifted, both dying almost in the bloom of youth,—had a saddening influence, and certainly tempered in some degree the buoyancy of his spirits, but did not leave him gloomy. He was still a cheerful, hopeful, helpful companion, whose fountain of sympathy with others and for others did not cease to flow.

He had been blessed with a happy childhood. Home and school had each efficiently done their part; and when he reached manhood he was well equipped for the serious business of life and for all life's

varied duties. His intellectual powers were well developed. They were of a high order and had a wide range. His mental vision was swift and clear; he was accustomed to see to the core of things. The tentacles of his mind, reaching out in many directions, were keenly sensitive. His thought was quickly responsive to another's thought, and he was never so full of himself that he could not give hospitable entertainment to the thought of a companion. He had a ready wit, and a fund of humour of rare excellence. His mind, too, was richly stored with knowledge. Evidently, his faithfulness to his duties as a student had been of that same high quality which we know characterized his performance of the duties of later life. I was often greatly impressed with the accuracy and the extent of the knowledge which he had at command, and which he must have acquired in his youth.

He knew his work. It was a point of conscience with him to know it thoroughly. He mastered and retained the mastery of it by unremitting diligence. He was ever replenishing his large professional library; and upon the arrival of the English Mail, with its parcel of periodicals, I used to notice that the Law Magazine claimed his first attention.

He knew his work; and he was faithful in doing it. Nothing was shirked. As work increased, which could not well be declined, he increased his hours of labour. Nothing was slighted. Alike to the private client and to the Government,—to the humblest and to the highest in rank,—he gave his best.

From childhood he had known the Holy Scriptures, and his character was moulded in accordance with their teaching. It was as a young man of fixed Christian principles that he began his law studies. During, or just before entering upon his course of study, he had doubts, I am told, whether in the light of Christian duty, he should continue in his purpose; and I am also told that it was his mother, whom he always esteemed as one of the most excellent of Christians and safest of counsellors, who dispelled his doubts and convinced him that he should persevere.* I think all good men in the Island have reason to be thankful to her for her wise counsel at this critical period of her son's life. One cannot measure the influence for good, felt by the community at large, and especially by the younger members of the legal profession, of such an upright, useful, honoured life as that of Thomas Oughton, Solicitor and Advocate. That which was said of one whom he admired is emphatically true of himself: "He made faith in goodness easy to other men."

I have no reason to suppose that he ever came to regret his choice of a profession. Certainly it was a source of satisfaction to him to know, as he did know,

* Mrs Hood was not in Jamaica at the time, and refers for exact information upon this point to Mr Rouse, who had already given me the facts according to his recollection. Mrs Hood's impression is that Mr Oughton was indebted, in part at least, to his "father's good sense and fine judgment in convincing him of the necessity for having good and true and conscientious men in a profession which held so much power over the rights and property of others."

that his legal knowledge and acumen had been of avail in solving many difficulties arising in the relations between man and man, in satisfactorily adjusting many family troubles connected with property, in unravelling many a legal tangle and settling conflicting interests on the lines of justice and equity, and in maintaining the endangered rights of the widow and the fatherless.

The professional work which he remembered with greatest pleasure was, undoubtedly, that done in behalf of a number of the religious bodies of Jamaica. Early in his legal career he was successful in averting dangers which—amid wild excitement and tumult—threatened the tenure of his father's office as Pastor of the East Queen Street Baptist Church of Kingston, and the title of the Baptist Missionary Society to the Church property. In more recent years several of the religious denominations, reposing a special degree of confidence in his probity, wise judgment and thorough knowledge of law, sought his advice ; and by his counsel and under his guidance church properties of doubtful or complicated titles were placed on a safe and simple basis, order was brought out of confusion, and a multitude of uncertainties and perplexities otherwise likely to arise in the future were effectually avoided.

In his latter years I noticed, in his remarks touching the practice of law, a tone of criticism, indicating a certain degree of dissatisfaction. He greatly regretted that the machinery of law could so often be used to delay, obstruct, or evade justice. He felt that much is needed yet to be done in the way of legal reform, so that in a

surer, more expeditious and less vexatious way the ends of justice might be secured.

His public and professional duties in the closing decade of his life left him comparatively little leisure for general reading; but his reading was never wholly neglected. In earlier life he had read much, and had acquired an intelligent knowledge of standard authors, classic and modern. He had accumulated many books, and was continually adding to their number, until his general library became exceptionally large.

Among his books he had his strong special likings. Of modern and standard story books, those which breathe a bracing healthful atmosphere,—those of a manly, vigorous, genial tone,—those which would increase one's hope and strengthen one's faith, were the books he delighted in. The morbid, the pessimistic, the cynical, as well as the merely sensational, repelled him. He read Dickens in preference to Thackeray. He remembered, and sometimes re-read, the famous stories told by Walter Scott and Cooper. He read with much pleasure the works of George Macdonald and of Dr Holland, Macdonald's American counterpart. He was also attracted by the exquisitely delicate fancy of Hawthorne—an author who stands apart by himself. Not a few in Jamaica are indebted to Mr Oughton for their knowledge of this rare genius.

He read some of the poets. What was simple and graphic and came close to human experience he liked, but much that is recognized as poetry gave him but a very limited degree of pleasure. Indeed, there are

oceans of vague, dreamy, fanciful verse in which he could take no interest. Of the poets of his own time, Lowell was a prime favourite. The many-sidedness of Lowell appealed to his sympathies in many directions. In his younger days Cowper and Montgomery were among his favourites, and he never lost his liking for them.

I know not why, but of the many poems familiar to him, he held fully in memory, with verbal accuracy, only two. One of these by Montgomery, entitled "Wedding Wishes," he sometimes recited on the occasion of a friend's marriage, and he recited it with all the more feeling, because it was so applicable to his own wedded life. The poem is not always found in published collections of Montgomery's works, and I am sure that the friends of Mr Oughton—especially those who have heard him repeat it—will be glad to see it here :

WEDDING WISHES.

THE POLAR DOUBLE STAR.

The cynosure of midnight skies
Appears but one to seamen's eyes ;
 Yet twain they are,
 And each a star,
 Perhaps a sun.
May you, my friends, reverse the view,
And while on earth you look like two,
 From heaven be seen as one ;
Yea, like that polar symbol, be
A double star of constancy !

I have never met any one with a keener relish for wit and humour of the best sort. Of English humourists,

Hood and Dickens held the first place in his estimation ; and he greatly enjoyed the fun which he found in Mark Twain, Max Adeler, and other American humourists. He entered so fully into the spirit of the humour, that in his reading it lost nothing of its effect ; and partly because he relished it himself, partly because others so greatly enjoyed it, he seldom wandered outside the line of humour in choosing a reading for public or private entertainments, where his readings were always in great request. In such private entertainments he took a special delight. He never appeared more fully to enjoy himself than in the long-to-be-remembered evenings of social recreation in his own home, where, in the midst of congenial friends, song and music and reading chiefly filled the hours. His presence was always a main factor in the evening's enjoyment ; for not only was he an exceptionally fine reader, willing to bear his part, but was also an exceptionally good listener, heartily appreciative of the musical and literary gifts of his friends.

I have quoted one of the two little poems he held in memory. The other was a bit of humour which, also, he was at times persuaded to repeat at a wedding feast. During the last few weeks of his life he found delight sometimes of an evening in teaching this to a little boy, his grandchild. I was an interested spectator ; and it was most pleasant to see him as he—wanting nothing of his old-time vigour and vivacity and humour in tone and look and gesture—recited, with a merry twinkle in his eye, the lines which the grandchild

repeated after him. I like to recall the little incidents of those closing days of so bright a life, bright to the end ; and I think a modest place might be found here for this bit of playful verse.*

He had a keen appreciation of a good sermon—fresh, thoughtful, vigorous, earnest ; but was impatient of mere platitudes and perfunctory utterances. He had a sincere liking for the sermons of his brother, the Rev. Paxton Hood. During a considerable period prior to 1870, while the pulpit of the Church where he worshipped was

* Mr Bourne and his wife
Had at breakfast a strife,
He wished bread and butter with his tea.
Said she,—“ I rule the roost ;
You shall have a plate of toast ; ”
So to loggerheads with him went she.

There was one Mr Moor
Lived on the next floor,—
A man very strong in the fist,—
Who, hearing all this clatter
About toast and bread and butter,
Went and seized Mr Bourne by the wrist.

Said he,—“ Odds my life !
You sha’n’t beat your wife !
It is both a shame and disgrace ! ”
“ ’Tis no business of your’n,”
Quoth Mrs Bourne,
As she dashed a cup of tea in his face.

Said poor Mr Moor,
As he went through the door,
And shook his wet locks like an otter—
“ In the wars of wedded dears
Whosoever interferes
Is sure to get into hot water ! ”

vacant, Mr Oughton was accustomed on Sundays to read a sermon to the congregation ; and he found that Mr Hood's sermons, abounding in imagery and illustrations by story and parable and verse, were those which made the most vivid impression. Among his chief favourites were Robertson of Brighton, and Henry Ward Beecher ; and, more lately, Beecher's successor, Dr Lyman Abbott. He was catholic in his spiritual fellowship. His sympathies were with the true and good of every flock ; and he was thankful for fresh pasturage in whatever field it was found.

His favourite portions of the Bible—the portions from which his selections at family worship were almost invariably made—were the Psalms and the Gospels. If children were visiting in the family he rarely failed to select some Gospel narrative or parable likely to interest and so instruct and influence them. Of the Psalms, the 103rd appeared to be a very special favourite. I remember that on three several occasions, when he had returned to Jamaica from a visit to England or to America, he chose that psalm as the one to read when first engaging in family worship after having thus returned safely to his home.

How much he is now missed in that home cannot be told. For in the severance of a wife's companionship with such a character—a tender companionship of unalloyed and unbroken loving sympathy for a period of forty years—who would attempt to describe the loss ? Or the loss to the daughter and the son, by whom he was beloved by “each one more than each ?” In times

of special trouble or joy, of perplexing doubt or hopeful anticipation, each had always found in him a sympathy and appreciation so full and complete that it did not seem possible the like could have been given in so perfect measure to any other.

In very many circles, by many classes of his fellow-men, he is missed. "The footsteps of his life" were felt in the lives of many,* to whom he was a counsellor trusted to the full, a sympathising companion, a kind and wise helper, the heart's true friend. The Master's behest is: "Let your light shine." My brother's light did shine,—not dazzlingly, in brilliant flashes; it was an even, steady, unobtrusive irradiation, diffusing brightness and cheer, gladdening with its light many a darkened heart. His influence was widely and deeply felt, not because of any striking act or episode of his life, but rather as the result of his gentle and strong and winning characteristics, manifested day by day—an unconscious, habitual outflow of "the charities that soothe and heal and bless." His favourite star, which he learned to admire after coming to Jamaica, was Canopus,—bright, and not variable; and his life might be likened to such a star

"— that casts around its tranquil way
The radiance of its own clear day."

* Rev. C. C. Starbuck writes: "For nearly forty years it (Mr Oughton's home) was a house in which all that was struggling, however imperfectly, for the better cause against the worse, for Christ against Belial, were sure of a welcome. To have entered deeply and permanently into the life of a few is much, and Mr and Mrs Oughton have entered permanently into the lives of many."

What I have learned of the last day of his life is typical of the whole life. His morning greetings to his wife were loving and cheery, and in his thoughtfulness for her comfort he suggested various changes in arrangements for a proposed journey to the hills on the morrow, that she might have less care and trouble. His parting good-bye could not have been more tenderly affectionate. Then with courageous heart, not unconscious of his precarious hold upon life, he entered upon the day's work in his office, diligently attending to the interests of his clients; and he prolonged his labour beyond the allotted time that some matters of seeming urgency might not suffer detriment. Leaving his office more fatigued than was his wont, he still delayed his home-coming, and called upon the widow of a native Minister who had long been Pastor of a Kingston Church. This lady was soon to leave the parsonage, and procure a home in another part of the Island, and had entrusted to Mr Oughton the preparation of some necessary legal papers; and he called to give certain directions, that there might be as little delay as possible in securing for her the new home. The lady protested that he should have spared himself this extra labour, and should have sent for her to come to him at his office; but he said that he could not think of giving her that trouble, as he could call on his way home. The business was then explained to her minutely, clearly, patiently, until she fully understood what was required. After that he remained a while, and spoke of former days; of his acting as chairman at one of the public meetings held by her husband; of the prospects

of the Church, and expressed the wish that soon it might have a good and true man for a Pastor. He referred to her loneliness in her widowhood, and spoke words of sympathy and comfort; he inquired about her new home, and the friends and neighbours she would have, and hoped the change of home would be a pleasant one for her. And he spoke of his own plans; of going to the hills next day for rest; of his plans for taking days of change and rest every week during the hot summer months. When finally he said good-bye—his last good-bye—and departed, there was left behind in the widow's heart a sense of sympathy, a glow of comfort, a cheering light that surely will not fade away. Only once more were words spoken by that tongue wherein dwelt the "law of kindness." On the way home he admonished the coachman, who was flicking with the whip, not to strike the horses; and with that was closed the record of the utterances and ministrations of his gentle lips.

This last day is remembered, simply because it was his last day. Otherwise—for it was so like to other days,—it would have had no special prominence, and its incidents would have been comprised within

"That blest portion of a good man's life,
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love."

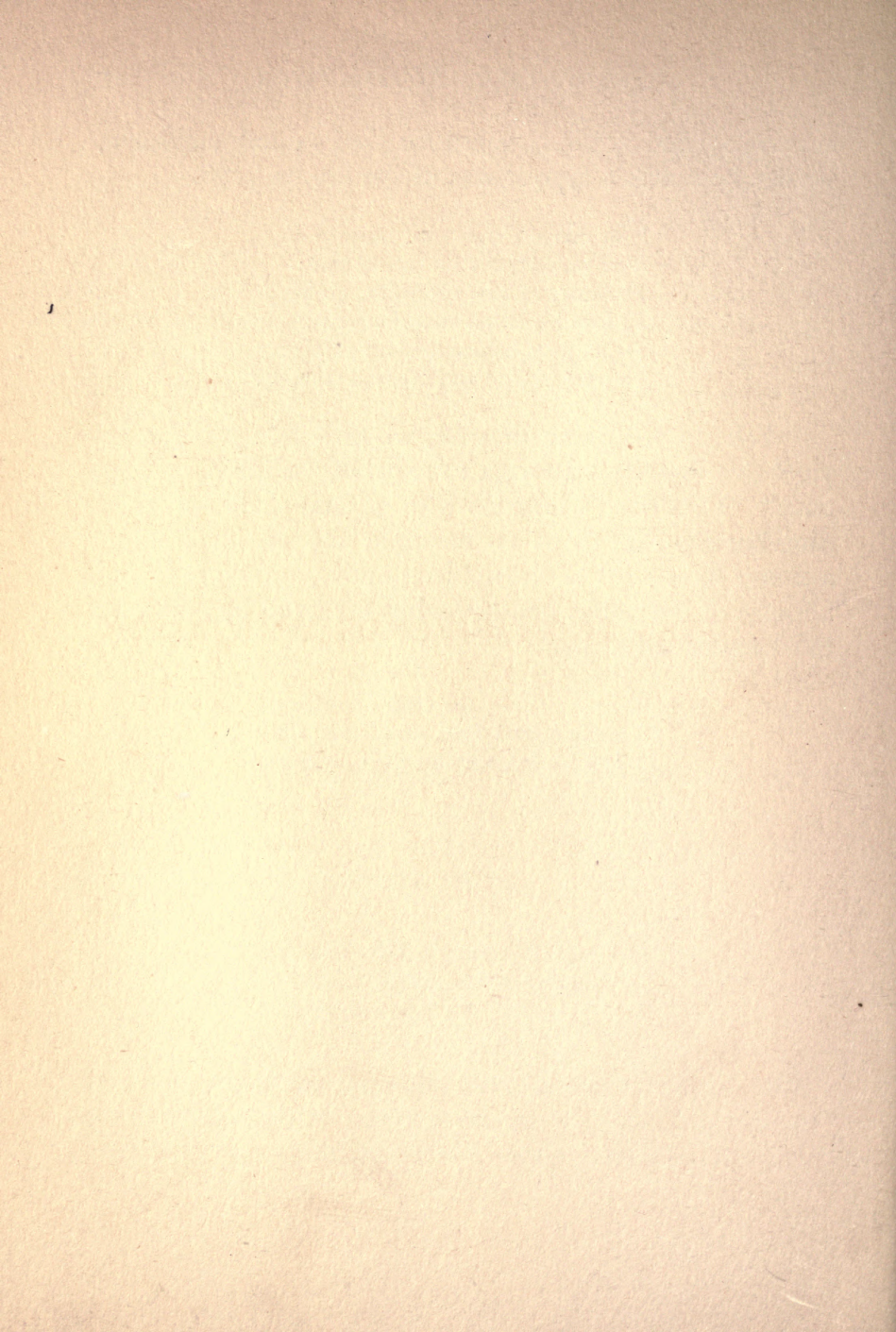
But as we recall the day, and note how it was filled with love, with thoughtful care for others, with faithfulness to duty, with forgetfulness of self, with sympathy for the

sorrowing, and a kind regard for God's dumb creatures, we see how true a type it was of the life he lived.

“ Four things a man must learn to do,
If he would make his record true :
To think, without confusion, clearly ;
To love his fellow-men sincerely ;
To act from honest motives purely ;
To trust in God and Heaven securely.”

Well do we know that he, whose worth was far beyond this imperfect attempt to express, “made his record true.” That record remains with us, and shall not grow dim, but shall be to us an example and an inspiration ; and our lives shall be the nobler, gentler, and more loving because of the noble, gentle, loving life lived by him, who has been called to join

“—— the choir invisible
Of the immortal dead, who live again
In lives made better for their presence.”



III

TRIBUTES FROM FRIENDS IN JAMAICA

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

EXTRACTS FROM SERMON.

I.

Rev. WILLIAM GILLIES, *Co-Principal, Mico
Institution, Kingston.*

I HAVE tried to realize how great a blank the loss of Mr Oughton has caused to you ; but I am afraid I have not succeeded, though not unfamiliar with a loss of the kind. I have seen many references to him that were full of kindness, and showed how much he was appreciated, and how very sincere and warm was the esteem in which he was held. But the balance of Mr Oughton's character was so complete, that it is not easy in ordinary terms to express what needs to be said of it. And this applies so well to the intellectual as well as to the moral side of the character, that one feels at a loss. The difficulty is one we always meet with when we have to deal with the symmetrical. "Thou desirest truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part Thou shalt make me to know wisdom." This I take it is the ideal of a perfectly sincere man and really good man. It is the spring of that moral glow that pervades the manner and the life of some men—men who are not too common. Their professions are not loud, but their influence is great, and it lasts wherever it is once felt. The more I have thought of this, the more clear has it become to me that there

was in your husband a combination and a balance of qualities that we do not often meet with.

That is why I think of the great *blank* to you, which no one can fully realize. But, while the change is to us who remain sad, the thought of "departed worth" is very pleasant and heartening. The memory of it is a source of strength. Besides, I have got a very real conviction, that what we call death is after all a kind of evolution, a beautiful setting free of all our higher powers, and an immediate entrance on a wider sphere for their exercise. So small a part of the man is that which dies, though he deeply impressed the stamp of himself upon it, that I do not concern myself about the "garment of mortality." It is but the cast-off clothing, the old rug—sometimes how beautiful in life—that we are to put away and have nothing more to do with. But the qualities of character we were so familiar with from day to day are to live and shine and glorify the Divine Artist that brought them into being. It is in this way I think of your departed husband—the same thoughtful, genial, kind, playful, sincere, and serious man he was here,—as good company now and to be so for ever, as he was here,—his stores of wisdom and experience gathered here to be an eternal possession.

Mr Radcliffe, Dr Phillippo, Mr Henderson, and Mr Oughton—what a variety of gift and attainment and character, and all gone so quickly one after another! To name them thus together is both saddening and inspiring. One sometimes hears remarks that seem intended to convey the idea, that the beautiful in char-

acter is in this island "a strange plant in an unkindly soil;" but we are not so poor as some suppose, and I feel sure that a truthful sketch of your husband's life would show how much of "the true, the beautiful, and the good" may be combined in a single life, and that too with the rare modesty and self-repression that Wordsworth had in mind when he wrote

"Wisdom is often nearer when we stoop
Than when we soar."

II.

Rev. WILLIAM GRIFFITH, *Pastor of the United Free Methodist Church, Kingston.*

DURING the thirty years of my acquaintance with your husband, I had many opportunities of learning his sterling worth, the unswerving integrity that governed all he did, and to esteem him very highly for his own sake. I count it a privilege to have known him and to have been honoured with his friendship.

More than any man I have known, the path of duty seemed ever plain and clear. He never appeared to need to think as to which of any alternative course was the right one. Neither did he ever fail to follow the one his judgment and conscience approved. The right was ever right to him, and men unable to understand, or at least to appreciate a rule of conduct so high, as unsuited to their own lives, were not slow to recognize its value in him. I never heard from him

an unkind word about any one, and he was incapable of doing an unkind thing, and all who knew him knew this.

For over twenty-five years we were constantly and closely associated in important business matters affecting large public interests,—he as Solicitor and I as Director and Chairman of the Kingston Benefit Building Society. His chair was next to mine. I am only saying what all the officers of that institution acknowledge, that the magnificent results of the past have been largely due to the invariable soundness of his professional advice, the marked interest he took in the general business of the Society, and the public confidence inspired by the fact of his being the trusted professional adviser of the Board.

In his profession as completely as in his private life his Christian character dominated all he did. He served God before all else, and served everything the better for so doing, thus furnishing another proof of the possibility of fidelity in all relations of life and at the same time to conscience and to God. All who entrusted to him their business knew they would be faithfully served. His clients trusted him, and he deserved their confidence.

Ever loyal in his attachment to his own church, we all felt that in his large-hearted, liberal-handed catholicity he belonged to us all. And now that he is taken from you for a little while, you have the supreme comfort of knowing that among the legacies of his life is a reputation that knows no breath of

blame. He served God and he served his generation, and he has left the world the better for his beautiful and blameless life.

III.

Mrs BERRY, *St Andrew, Jamaica.*

How soon your husband followed my dear brother, Dr Phillippo. Their deaths were both sudden, so that they could not say farewell to relatives and friends. They were spared the trial of parting, though we are left to mourn. Your husband, like the Doctor, will be greatly missed,—he was so kind and helpful, and those who were left widows and orphans found in him a true friend and wise adviser. You know I came out from England when he did, in December 1843, so that I knew him a long, long time.

IV.

Mrs CRAIG, *Chapelton, Jamaica.*

MR OUGHTON will be very much missed beyond his family circle. In him the poor have lost a good friend. I am sure that, by-and-by, it will be a consolation to you to know how much he was loved and trusted, and what sincere regret is felt by all at the loss of so good a man.

V.

J. C. FORD, Esq., *Kingston, Jamaica.*

I HAVE always felt the greatest respect and esteem for one whom the whole Island has regarded as a power for good, and as an ornament to his profession and to society. In this Island such a life as your husband's was indeed precious as an example of an upright and honourable man, faithful, just, generous.

VI.

Rev. J. BALFOUR, *Calabar College, Kingston, Jamaica.*

IT is hard to feel that I shall not see your dear husband here again. He was the kindest of friends to me, and he always made me perfectly at home with him. I loved to meet him and listen to his reminiscences. Frequently, when passing his office, I called in to have the pleasure of being with him for a few minutes. I learned to look to him for sympathetic counsel when I needed friendly guidance, and I have never come away without seeing my course more clearly and feeling better for our interview. I cherish his memory as that of one of my best friends, into whose heart I have seen, and have found it good and noble.

VII.

Rev. F. L. KING, *Snowden, Jamaica.*

A GREAT friend to many people has been called away. To how many he was a good and kind friend, helpful with

his counsel, wise advice, and judgment; and helpful also with his wise liberality, "the day only will reveal." Truly he has laid up "treasure in heaven."

VIII.

The Right Rev. BISHOP DOUET, *Jamaica* (Letter to Mrs D'Aeth).

THOUGH I cannot say that I knew him at all intimately, still I had a very deep regard and respect for him as an upright man and sincere Christian. He is one of those men who will be missed, and whose place in the community cannot easily be filled. The recollection of this will always cause his memory to be revered, and this is some consolation to your mother and yourself in the sorrow at losing a loving husband and a tender father.

IX.

Extracts from Sermon preached in East Queen Street Baptist Chapel, Kingston, by the Rev. WM. PRATT, M.A., from the text : Psalm xxvi. 1 and 8.

WE are met here to-day for a special purpose, which is, we must all feel, of a saddening nature, but yet at the same time, as I trust we shall likewise feel, may prove to be a stimulus and inspiration to every soul. We are met to remember and review the life of our departed friend, Mr Thomas Oughton, who was for some fifty years

associated with this Church ; and more especially to consider " what manner of spirit he was of."

Now it seems to me that the two chief features of Mr Oughton's life and character are well expressed in the verses I have selected as a text. For, if we regard his conduct or " walk " in life, it was marked as we all know by integrity ; and the one thing that most forcibly struck me, during my too short acquaintance with him, as distinguishing his spirit, was his attachment to God's house. Integrity and love to God and His house, I cannot but think, were the leading characteristics of our dear friend, and I also cannot but think there was a close connection, a connection of cause and effect, between the two. In my opinion we see, exemplified in the life and character of Mr Oughton, *integrity as the outcome and fruit of love to God and His house.*

The story of his life may truly be summed up in the words of the Psalmist : " I have walked in mine integrity." With humble and thankful confidence he might, like the Psalmist, appeal to God as the witness of his sincerity and uprightness, saying : " Judge me, O Lord, for I have walked in mine integrity ;" and we with a like confidence may point to his unblemished life and character as a bright example of sterling integrity. Again and again the Government of this Island showed its confidence in his ability and character by appointing him to fill responsible positions. Whatever post he occupied he proved that this confidence had not been misplaced ; for his conscientiousness and righteousness were as conspicuous as his legal capacity.

The tenor of Mr Oughton's mind and spirit was to put truth and right in the first place, and not to relegate them to any secondary position. He was just and feared not. Nor were the finer feelings of his heart blunted in the discharge of his duties, for it was his habit to show leniency and consideration wherever he could. It may truly be said that by his just and considerate dealings he magnified and adorned the office of a lawyer.

Our friend's life was a solemn reality; and he cherished and sought to fulfil in it a serious, unselfish and godly purpose. Yet he enjoyed the society of his fellows—no one more so than he, I think, in his own quiet way; and in congenial company that playful humour, that was so marked a characteristic of his mind, sparkled in his eyes and in his talk.

But above all other society he loved the society of home. Home was to him the happy centre to which he ever gladly returned, and where his soul found most gratifying and satisfying rest. In his home the resolve of the writer of the 101st Psalm was his: "I will walk within my house with a perfect heart." Of him it may be said, as was written of a great English author by his widow, that "his highest virtues were known only to his wife, his children, his servants, and the poor." His benefactions to the poor, though done in secret and unostentatiously, were—as I can testify, and some members of this congregation from far fuller knowledge could testify—both frequent and numerous.

Mr Oughton loved God and His house. *His love of God's house and worship* was, I think, the most distin-

guishing feature of the spirit of the man. Most truly could he have said with the Psalmist, "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house and the place where Thine honour dwelleth." This Chapel was very dear to his heart. He loved it for the sake of all its endearing associations. In this pulpit his father ministered with great intellectual power and eloquence for a quarter of a century. Here too, in connection with this Chapel, his mother lived and laboured, beloved by all who knew her for her true and gentle Christian spirit; and on the wall of this Chapel a memorial tablet testifies to the deep affection felt for her by family and friends. In the ceiling above our heads we have a mark of the son's attachment to this place in the electroliers he in his generosity placed there, and a sign also, it seems to me, of that attitude of his mind which ever led him in every direction to welcome the new light.

But this place was loved by him chiefly because here his soul "beheld the beauty and glory of the Lord." Here he "professed a good profession before many witnesses" by baptism. He delighted to worship and serve God here. For many years he acted as Organist, and so led the service of praise to the Lord. He was a teacher in the Sunday School, and one minister of the Gospel, at least, is still living and labouring in the Island who tells how much he has owed to Mr Oughton's wise and faithful teaching.

Was our departed friend's love to God a weakness? Far from it: it was the secret, the source and support, of the strength and beauty of his character. His hatred of

the "vain" and the "evil" was but the other side—the reverse—of his love to God. It was because his heart was tender with love to God that it was ever stern to all forms of wrong and oppression, but ever gentle and kind to the weak and helpless—the widow, the little children, and the dumb animals.

The cause of right and truth and purity and God, in this City and Island, and this Church in particular, has lost much in Dr Phillippo and Mr Oughton, the two mutual friends who have recently passed away from our midst, so near together and both so suddenly. But the Christian, least of all, should fear and despair. The workers may fail and fall: the Lord's work goes on, and on, to a glorious consummation. As for the blessed dead—"considering the issue of their life let us imitate their faith," and one and all prove ourselves to be true and worthy followers of them "who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

IV

TRIBUTES OF FORMER JAMAICA FRIENDS

PROF. C. C. STARBUCK.

REV. J. D. EAST.

MRS ANNIE LEWIS.

J. N. CAMP, ESQ.

I.

Prof. C. C. STARBUCK, *Andover, Mass.*

My sister says:—"There are very few men of whom it may be so emphatically said that they were good husbands, good fathers, and warm and faithful friends."

What a different thing my ten years in Jamaica would have been but for you and Mr Oughton: the remembrance of this part of my life is inextricably associated with your names. God gave to Mr Oughton length of life, and all those experiences of joy and sorrow which help to ripen for higher service. All good things and good men in the island will feel his loss.

II.

Rev. J. D. EAST, *England, formerly of Kingston, Jamaica.*

No word that I have seen expressive of the appreciation in which Mr Oughton was held, could exceed that which my own feeling and conviction would write. As a friend and counsellor I held him in high esteem, and in seasons of trial and perplexity I consider myself deeply indebted to him. I had the profoundest sense of his judgment in some circumstances of great delicacy, and feel that he saved me from issues which might have proved painfully

disastrous. I have ever regarded it as a great blessing that amid all the changes, and at times diversity of opinion, never a word has passed between us to disturb our personal friendship. This I am thankful to have enjoyed to the very last of our intercourse with each other.

III.

Mrs ANNIE LEWIS, *Scotswood-on-Tyne*.

WITH all the trials life has brought you, how you can rejoice and be happy in the remembrance of the happy years in which you have shared the life of such a man as Thomas Oughton. Even his acquaintances and friends are proud to have known him.

IV.

J. N. CAMP, Esq., *Iowa, formerly U.S. Consul in Kingston*.

BEING like him undemonstrative by nature, he probably never knew how much I admired his character and rare abilities, or how warmly I cherished his friendship. During the period of our association, I was quite a young man, with limited experience of the world, charged with grave responsibilities for which I sometimes felt inadequate. Mr Oughton always welcomed my approach for friendly counsel and advice when the difficulties of my position bore most heavily upon me, freely giving me the benefit of his exceptionally clear, sound judgment.

After the lapse of twenty-eight years his strong personality stands forth as distinctly in memory as if we had parted but a few months ago,—a noble, gifted man ; quiet, earnest, kind, genial, modest and unassuming, but firm and self-reliant ; honest, honourable, just, strong, brave ; inspired by lofty aims and purposes ; high-minded and clean in both private and professional life. Such was Mr Oughton to me in the day of our association, and such memory still holds him.

By cordial, generous hospitality, he contributed largely towards making his home and yours seem like a home to me, and to make me forget that I was a stranger in a strange land.

My experiences have grown vastly more broad and full with the passing years, but the pleasant hours spent with Mr Oughton and yourself have been continuously cherished in memory.

V

TRIBUTES FROM AMERICAN FRIENDS

GENERAL JOHN C. SMITH.
HON. J. W. DICKINSON, LL.D.
MISS CORNELIA ALDIS.
DR KATE J. JACKSON.
DR G. R. BRACKETT.
MRS LUCY A. BRADNER.
MRS DIEHL.
JAMES W. SCOTT, ESQ.
MRS CAROLINE G. SCOTT.

General JOHN C. SMITH, *Chicago.*

How can we express the sorrow that fills all our hearts as we think of your sad bereavement, and the loneliness of your home that was so happy. May God comfort you in your great affliction. Would that by words of friendship and love we might help to solace you. Our sympathies are with you. It was our happiness to know your beloved husband and to know him was to love him. All that is said of his sterling qualities of manhood, his goodness of heart, and sympathy with the poor and afflicted, and love of justice; and his gentleness and cheerfulness, finds prompt response in our hearts. He was all your loving heart wished him to be.

We are happy in having enjoyed his company and his friendship. The recollections of the many happy weeks we spent at Bel Air, and the brief time you both gave us in our own home, are among the brightest recollections of our eventful life. How well we recall his happiness at our 96th reception to welcome your brother,* when he saw so many of our "brave boys" and so many of the Colonel's old comrades and friends. His last letter to

* A re-union at General Smith's home in Chicago, during the World's Fair, of the widely scattered members of the 96th Regiment Illinois Volunteers, organised in 1862, and discharged at the close of the war in America, 1865.

us, expressing regret that he could not be present at our Reception of Masonic friends, we greatly prize ; it was so genial and sparkling, and characteristic of the good man that he was.

Hon. J. W. DICKINSON, LL.D., *Mass.*

IT seemed to me as I became somewhat acquainted with your husband, that he was a model man, and a model husband. His intelligence and learning and quiet humour and refinement of manner and spirit made him a most desirable companion and friend. I began to love him the day I first met him in his own home in Jamaica.

MISS CORNELIA ALDIS, *Boston (in a letter to Mrs Bancroft Oughton).*

LITTLE as I saw of Mr Oughton, he impressed me as a very unusual man ; so clever, intellectually, and at the same time as frank and open-hearted as a child. I do not think I ever met a man of his age, except my own father, who seemed to me so untouched by worldliness ; in whom so very keen a mental vision was united to so kind a heart. And so I can appreciate what a blow it is to you and Mrs Oughton to lose him out of your lives.

Dr KATE J. JACKSON, *Dansville Sanatorium, New York.*

WE learned with grief of Mr Oughton's death ; and when we called to mind his cheering presence with us a

year ago, we could not make it seem possible that he had gone from earthly sight for evermore.

In the light of our knowledge of him we could understand all that was written of his true and noble qualities of character as a citizen and friend, and as a husband and father. What a consolation to you and to all who knew and loved him that he leaves for all "a blessed memory."

I shall never forget his courage and patience under bodily ills, or the sunshine of his nature. Though sick, and at times almost helpless, while here, yet his helpful influence made an impression that will not soon be forgotten.

Dr G. R. BRACKETT, *Charleston.*

I OFTEN recall our brief but pleasant acquaintance at the Sanatorium, and my delightful walks with Mr Oughton. In him a tender heart was wedded to a strong mind, and around both played the light of genuine humour. And what was more than all else, he was a devout and earnest Christian. He has left you and his family a legacy of precious memories, and a splendid public record. How much has gone out of the life of the community! How you must miss his bright, genial presence.

Mrs LUCY A. BRADNER, *New Haven.*

I AM very glad to have the pleasant remembrance of Mr Oughton, which your delightful visit last summer left in our minds. Mr Bradner and I were both impressed

with the gentle courtesy and manifestations of a lovely character which appeared in Mr Oughton's demeanour and words.

Mrs DIEHL, *New York.*

I MUST tell you, dear Mrs Oughton, that Robbie and I in our home so far away are mourning as if our own household had been invaded. Mr Oughton's kindness to Robbie last year, the sort of good comradeship which the mature man displayed towards the boy who liked to be treated as a man was most gratefully appreciated and will never be forgotten. When the "Atlas" steamer bore you away, Robert gazed long after the boat, as it put out to sea, and when we turned to go home his eyes were moist as he said, "There goes a good man, and I shall never see him again."

JAMES W. SCOTT, Esq., *Editor, Chicago Herald*
(*in a Letter to Colonel Hicks*).

I SAW but little of Mr Oughton, but we met as old friends, and the affection I had for him seemed to have been with me all the time, through you and your sister. I think I told you how strange it seemed to me that night at the reception at General Smith's, to meet for the first time one I knew so well. He was beyond my highest anticipations, even after all you had told me. Having met Mr Oughton, I can better appreciate how much he was to you.

Mrs CAROLINE G. SCOTT, *Chicago.*

I KNOW that I cannot say one word to comfort you, but I want to tell you how deeply I sympathise with you. My first thought, when Colonel Hick's letter came, was, "Oh, how thankful Mrs Oughton must be that they had that delightful trip last summer. I remember how gratified dear Mr Oughton seemed with it all, especially with his visit to Rockford. Mr Oughton was such a rare man, that separation from him means infinitely more than such separations do often mean.

VI

TRIBUTES AND WORDS OF CONSOLATION

LADY MUSGROVE.

MISS MARY KNIBB.

"SISTER ISABEL" (MISS WISE).

MRS HELEN L. BEECHER.

MISS MARY E. B. NORTON.

Lady MUSGROVE, *England.*

I WOULD remind you for your comfort, that you stand upon a narrowing and not a widening gulf of separation ; every day, even every hour, brings you nearer to your husband.*

MISS MARY KNIBB, *Falmouth, June 4, 1894.*

YOUR husband's love for you always seemed so beautiful to me, indeed everything of him was lovely, noble, and true. Truly, his wife and children were the apple of his eye. How he will be missed ! We thank God for his beautiful, useful life here, and we are thankful, too, that we know he has gone to his inheritance on high. The Rev. Mr Wolcott once said to me,—“Mr Oughton is my ideal of a Christian.” How many there are, dear friend, who will not only sympathise, but who will truly mourn with you, feeling that we, too, have lost a friend.

I think, what will life seem to you without him ? And yet I am quite sure that God, who has called his dear servant home, will comfort and sustain you. And then he is *your very own* still, and though your eyes do not

* I have some times passed this thought on to other mourners, who have thereby been comforted.

behold him, I am sure you will feel that he is near and bidding you be comforted, for he is full of joy and peace unspeakable.

Miss KNIBB (*Second Letter, June 5, 1894*).

How strangely our lives are mingled. This evening, going to search for a paper of business importance, I met with some lines, which I send you. They are your own dear Anna's; and I think must comfort your heart at this time. When you once brought her to Falmouth, I sent her some flowers. Afterwards she wrote me a loving note, and these lines. I have often been cheered by reading them; and now I send them on to cheer her dear mother in her lonely grief. God works in all ways; and I pray that this may be one of his own messages.

JESUS KNOWS.

When our hearts are filled with grief
Naught on earth can bring relief;
Then how welcome is the call
To trust the Lord for all in all,
And to rest with sweet repose
In the thought that *Jesus knows!*

Cast on Him thy every care!
He will all thy burdens bear;
And will soothe each anxious thought
That to Him in love is brought.
Well may we cast on Him our woes,
And rest in peace,—for *Jesus knows!*

Jesus knows ! Oh, blessed thought
That to us from Heaven is brought !
Wounds too sacred to reveal
He with tenderest touch can heal ;
And our lives he will dispose
As seemeth best,—for *Jesus knows !*

“SISTER ISABEL” (Miss WISE), *Deaconess Home,*
London.

How shall I express to you how deeply my heart aches for you in the sudden and terrible sorrow our loving Father has sent you. I wish I could have been with you, if only to stand beside you, for I know words (except when they are His) are but out of place and poor comforters. But I feel sure our dear Lord, who wept long ago in sympathy, is close beside to whisper words of love and consolation.

How glorious the meeting of those two friends, both suddenly summoned “up higher,” and how deep the comfort for all left behind,—the knowledge that they were ready. May it be that when our call comes, we may have lived as faithfully.

It seems as if a large number one knows and loves are being gathered home, and it is well it should be so, for where our treasure is there also is our heart ; and the lonely spots and vacant places seem to make us look up to where our precious ones are with Christ.

May our God just put His strong, everlasting arms around you, and hold you up, dear Mrs Oughton, and breathe His comfort into your heart.

Mrs HELEN L. BEECHER, *California.*

You can hardly imagine how my mind went back to old days, and to your little home in Illinois, and to that trip on the Mississippi, and to your dear good young husband, and to your bridal happiness, as I read that paper from Jamaica. Now it is all over ; and you like me are alone.

We both have dear children to remind us of their father and to comfort us in our loneliness. We both have the memory of past happiness, and that is a great enrichment of our lives ; and we both have the privilege of looking back on honorable and honoured lives of those who have preceded us. We have nothing to be ashamed of—all to take pride in,—and is that not a consolation ? And then, best of all, we have a sure and certain hope of meeting again.

I cannot tell you how much I think of that while hearing and reading so much of these doubts and darkness,—this agnosticism as to another life. I feel more thankful than ever for Him who “brought Life and Immortality to light,”—for Him who is Himself the Way, the Door, so that we can “cast our anchor within the veil” through Christ Jesus. All through Christ. Without Him all is dark and gloomy and hopeless. With Him, all is light, and life, and happiness.

Miss MARY E. B. NORTON, *Pacific Grove, California.*

It is not the first time that death has darkened your home, dear friend, but well I know that this loss must seem in

the first terrible shock like the breaking up of the foundations of life. Your "strong tower," the lover of your youth, the tender and devoted husband, the comforter in all other trials, is gone. It *seems* so, beloved, because our eyes are darkened ; but O,—

" Believe not that the dead are dumb,
But they that live are deaf."

Above all the Blessed Comforter is with you, ready to heal and strengthen. In the midst of this sorrow I know you are comforted, too, by beautiful and blessed memories of the noble life you have so long shared.

How gladly would we all go, as your husband went, in the full tide of useful activity, honoured and beloved in all his public and private life.

The beloved daughters, who had gone before, were there to welcome him. The veil grows thinner as Heaven grows richer, and sometimes I seem to see and hear the beloved on the other side. As we look towards sunset, and daily come nearer our full reunion, should not the way grow brighter and our hearts be uplifted with joy and gladness ?

VII

OFFICIAL TESTIMONIES

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

THE SUPREME COURT.

THE MANDEVILLE COURT.

BOARD OF VISITORS, SHORTWOOD TRAINING COLLEGE.

LETTER OF CHAIRMAN, SHORTWOOD TRAINING COLLEGE.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MICO INSTITUTION.

THE KINGSTON BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.

THE JAMAICA CO-OPERATIVE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE KINGSTON MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION.



From a Photograph
1880.

*Message of His Excellency the Governor to the Honourable
the Legislative Council of Jamaica.*

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to report to you, with much regret, the death on the 1st June last, of Mr Thomas Oughton, for twenty-two years Clerk of this Council.

I avail myself of this opportunity of recording the Government's high appreciation of the late Mr Oughton's services, and their sense of the ability and efficiency with which his duties were discharged during that lengthened period.

I have now to intimate that Mr Thomas Bancroft Oughton, Barrister-at-Law, and a son of the late Clerk, has been appointed to be Clerk of the Legislative Council.

HENRY A. BLAKE, *Governor.*

KING'S HOUSE,
12th February 1895.

Sir ADAM GIBB ELLIS, *Chief Justice (in a letter to Mr Bancroft Oughton).*

IT is with very great regret that I have just heard of the death of your father, and I hasten to assure you of my very sincere sympathy.

I have always entertained a very great respect for your father, considering him a man of conspicuous ability and of a fair and upright character. The profession, and the community generally, have sustained a severe loss in his death, which will be specially deplored by his friends, among whom I wish to be numbered.

The Supreme Court.

AT the first session of the Supreme Court, subsequent to the death of Mr Oughton, remarks were made as follows by the Attorney General and the Acting Chief Justice :—

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

THE legal profession has suffered a great loss in the death of our esteemed friend, Mr Thomas Oughton. I do not think, your Honours, that it will be necessary for me to say anything in praise of Mr Oughton ; but I am sure that there was no member of the profession who stood higher in the public estimation, or who enjoyed more fully the esteem and confidence of his fellow practitioners. Mr Thomas Oughton has long been well known in the Courts, and I am happy to say that his name will still be, and I am sure favourably, known in my friend, Mr Oughton, jr.

MR JUSTICE NORTHCOTE.

MR OUGHTON, jr., has our most sincere sympathy in the loss he has sustained by the death of his father, Mr Thomas Oughton, whose learning and many sterling qualities were fully appreciated and admired by us all.

The Mandeville Court.

ON the day of Mr Oughton's death and funeral, a telegram was received from A. V. Kingdon, Esq., the presiding Judge of the Court at Mandeville, stating that the Court had adjourned as a token of respect, upon motion of Arthur Levy, Esq., Solicitor and Advocate.

In a letter to Mr Bancroft Oughton, Mr LEVY said :—

On hearing by telegram of the sudden death of your esteemed father, it appeared to the persons who were present in the Court Room and about the Court Offices a right and proper thing that I, who had known and respected him nearly all my life, should move an adjournment of the Court, as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Thomas Oughton, a Christian gentleman and a member of the legal profession, who had occupied so prominent and distinguished a position in it, and who, moreover, had once sat on the judgment seat as one of the best, ablest, and most impartial judges. The adjournment was granted with expressions of sincere regret by the Court, who referred to our deceased friend in very nearly the same affectionate terms as I had done in moving the adjournment.

THE BOARD OF VISITORS OF THE SHORTWOOD TRAINING COLLEGE. (*From the Minutes of the Board.*)

THE Board desires to place on record its sense of the loss it has sustained in the death of the late Mr Thomas Oughton, who had been one of its most valued members

from the time of its formation, and would tender to his widow and family an expression of its entire sympathy with them in their bereavement.

From the MOST REVEREND BISHOP NUTTALL, Chairman of the Board (in a letter to Mrs Oughton).

As you know, for many years I have in various ways, public and private, been brought into close association with Mr Oughton; and though we have often necessarily looked at questions from a different standpoint, and perhaps inevitably have brought to such questions a certain bias which must have had its influence on our final judgment and action, yet nothing ever occurred to mar the harmony of our personal friendship; and I certainly never shared with your husband in the conduct of any important public business without an increasing admiration for his judgment, and for his paramount desire to do what was right and best. I mourn his loss as a private friend; and the Colony, and especially the various Institutions to which he gave individual care and assistance, have great cause to mourn his loss as one of our foremost and most useful citizens.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MICO INSTITUTION.
(*From the Rev. H. H. KILBURN, Secretary.*)

I AM desired by the Directors of the Mico Institution to express their sympathy with you in the irreparable loss you have sustained by the death of your husband.

For many years Mr Oughton had been a most useful member of the Board of Directors (formerly Board of Visitors). On several occasions the services he rendered were of signal value in promoting and guarding the interests of the Institution, and he was held in highest esteem by all the members of the Board. Although he had not been able recently to attend its meetings, the Board felt a satisfaction in knowing that it could always rely upon his wise counsel and sound judgment whenever it should be necessary to consult him upon matters connected with the welfare of the Institution.

*Extract from the Thirty-first Annual Report of the
KINGSTON BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY, at a General
Meeting held 29th May 1895.*

“THE Directors regret to record the death, on the 1st of June 1894, of Thomas Oughton, Esq. He was Solicitor of the Society from its formation in 1864, and his zealous and effective services were very faithfully rendered for the lengthened period of over 30 years, and which have tended in no small degree to place the Society on its present satisfactory position.”

THE BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY, KINGSTON.

AT a Meeting of the Directors of this Society, Albert H. Jones, Esq. in the Chair, the following Resolutions were agreed to :

I. The Directors of the Kingston Benefit Building Society hereby record their deep regret at the death, on 1st June, instant, of Thomas Oughton, the Senior Solicitor of the Society.

II. The Directors would further place on record their high appreciation of the very zealous and effective service he has so effectively rendered the Society from its formation thirty years ago, and which has tended in no small degree to place it in its present satisfactory position.

III. The Society in common with the community at large has sustained a great loss, and the Directors tender to Mrs Oughton and the other members of the family their sincere expression of heartfelt sympathy in their great bereavement.

THE JAMAICA CO-OPERATIVE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Directors of this Company desire to express their sincere regret at the death of their Co-Director, Thomas Oughton, Esquire.

The Directors would record their deep sense of the loss which the Company has sustained by the death of Mr Oughton, who was one of the founders of the Company and who always evinced the greatest interest in its success. His regular attendance at all the Board meetings, and his exceptional ability and experience, always proved of the greatest benefit in dealing with the business of the Company.

The Directors desire to express their sincere sympathy with the widow and family in their sad bereavement.

(Signed) HENRY FORD, *Secretary*.

THE KINGSTON MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION.

Resolutions adopted June 4, 1894.

WHEREAS it has pleased God to remove suddenly by death Mr Thomas Oughton, for many years a prominent member of this community.

RESOLVED.—I. That this meeting of the Kingston Ministers' Association desires to place on record an expression of the loss which has been sustained.

To the members of the Association Mr Oughton has been known, and to some of them somewhat intimately, for a number of years. In personal intercourse they have ever found him affable and courteous, and willing to give such valuable counsel and advice, as his long experience, extensive knowledge, and mature judgment rendered him singularly qualified to give.

In his professional dealings they have found him careful and painstaking; and owing to his profound and accurate knowledge of the Law, he was a wise and safe adviser, whilst in his business transactions they believe him to have been actuated by motives much higher than mere professional interest or gain. They also feel it to be but a well merited tribute to departed worth to recognize the ability with which he filled various important public offices. Such as those of Acting Crown Solicitor,

Acting Attorney General, Acting District Judge and Clerk to the Legislative Council, and in these responsible positions gave great satisfaction. Above all they believe this was done without compromise of his religious principles and convictions as a professing Christian, and for this reason his example and influence could not but be potent for good, and the loss sustained by his death be seriously felt in this community.

2. That this meeting would express to Mrs Oughton, with her son and daughter, the sincere condolence of the members of the Association with them in their bereavement, and the hope, that while they are sustained under the sorrow, it may be sanctified to them by "The God of all comfort."

3. That a copy of these resolutions signed by the Chairman and Secretary on behalf of the Association, be forwarded to Mrs Oughton.

(Signed) C. E. RANDALL, *Chairman.*
HORACE PECKOVER, *Secretary.*

VIII

NOTICES OF THE PRESS

The Gleaner.

ONE of those links which bind the past to the present was severed yesterday morning by the death of Mr Thomas Oughton, who for a period of 40 years practiced as a solicitor in Kingston, and for 22 years acted as clerk to the Legislative Council. His decease was sudden and yet it was such as he had always wished—to die in harness. During his long career, Mr Oughton bore a high reputation as a solicitor, and he brought to bear, upon every case which demanded his attention, a careful study, and a sound common sense, in addition to a practical knowledge of the law which proved of the highest value to his clients. His brethren in the fraternity recognised his talents and many a subtle point was brought to him for settlement and many a tangled knot to be unravelled. But perhaps the best that can be said is that, in all his transactions, Mr Oughton was a gentleman, and no word has ever been heard against his truthful honesty and steadfastness of purpose. While he was of a mild temperament and gentle, he stuck to his opinions with obstinacy, and he generally proved to be in the right. His many friends amongst the members of his profession and his numerous *clientele* will feel his loss keenly for they have been deprived, not

only of a sound adviser but a sympathetic friend and confidant.

The Standard.

ANOTHER familiar form has passed from this mortal scene—another busy, useful worker has disappeared from the professional and social life of the Colony. It is now upwards of forty years since Mr Thomas Oughton was admitted as an Attorney at Law, and during that long period of time he has held a prominent and honoured place in the legal profession.

As a lawyer, Mr Oughton was distinguished for his faculty of keen, accurate perception, his masterly grasp of general principles, and his capacity for applying this comprehensive knowledge to the illustration or confirmation of any particular point which he wished to establish. Possessing an appreciative sense of the humorous, he was himself a humorist of acknowledged ability ; and at literary entertainments he was ever cordially received as a clever delineator of bright, genial, amusing character. Mr Oughton was imbued with the true religious spirit, but his religion was of the bright, cheerful, hopeful kind which seeks to unite the love of happiness and the principle of duty. It has been well said that the union of genuine, rich humour with deep piety, and the chastened, spontaneous use of it, under the guidance of a just judgment, are among the rarest manifestations of intellectual power. In the work, disposition, and character of Mr

Thomas Oughton this union was clearly manifested and his death will leave such a void as is caused by the removal of a strong, amiable, sympathetic individuality.

Post.

IT is with sincere regret we have this morning to announce the death of Mr Thomas Oughton, and we are quite sure that the whole community will join with us in expressions of sympathy with the bereaved family and intimate friends of the deceased gentleman. Mr Oughton has, during a long and busy public life, filled many positions of prominence, having on different occasions acted as Attorney General, Crown Solicitor, and District Court Judge, and has held the office of Clerk to the Legislative Council since 1872. To the discharge of the duties of these several offices, Mr Oughton brought an acute intellect, a well-trained mind and unflagging industry, and as a consequence stood always very high in the estimation of the Government. As a lawyer he enjoyed the confidence of a very large clientele for nearly half a century, and as a private gentleman his kindness of heart and cheerful disposition endeared him to a host of friends.

Gall's News Letter.

THERE has passed away from us one of the Beacon Lights of the colony, who has for nearly forty years

cast his lustre all around us. There has not been found a single "spot" upon his disc, and ever since his light "went suddenly out," people have been wondering who will fill his place.

As a chamber lawyer, Mr Oughton stood at the top of his profession, and we are not far wrong if we say that there has been hardly a cause of any importance in this Island in which Mr Oughton has not been in some way or other, more or less connected. A man of sterling integrity, truth and uprightness, he has been trusted with stupendous responsibilities on matters of the gravest importance, and his opinion has always had weight. He has very rarely been defeated in a cause, when he has recommended litigation, or suggested an appeal against a judgment. His success has been extraordinary and almost without a parallel in Jamaica.

As a legal draughtsman, Mr Oughton was par-excellence.

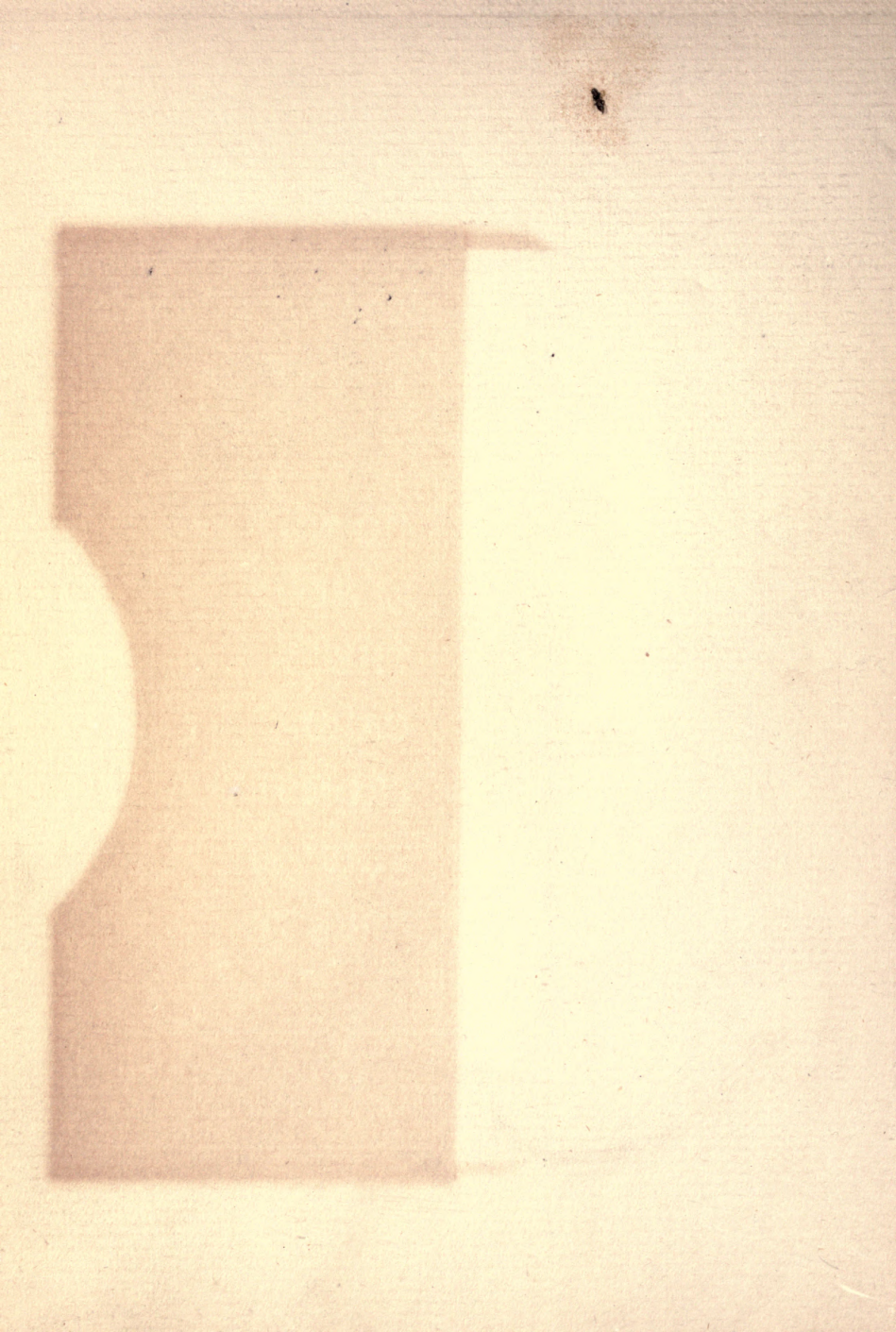
The Jamaica Baptist Reporter.

It was but a few months ago that we were startled by the news of the sudden death of the Hon. J. C. Phillippo, who was so widely known, not only for the leading place he held in his profession in the Island, but for the kind-hearted and christian manhood which caused him to be honoured and loved wherever he was known. A similar shock has now passed over the community in the equally sudden death

of Mr Oughton, who by his blameless character and by the position he had gained as the leading solicitor of the island, was as loved and honoured as any man in Jamaica.

Mr Oughton was the son of the Rev. Samuel Oughton, formerly for many years the Pastor of the East Queen Street Baptist Church, of which Mr Thomas Oughton was a member at the time of his death. In early life Mr Oughton intended to follow his father's steps and give himself to the work of the ministry, but afterwards his plan was altered and he undertook the study of law, with the success that is so well known in the island, and which has been repeatedly acknowledged by the high appointments conferred on him by the government. Though in his latter years the claims of his profession left him little time for other work, some years ago, when the East Queen Street Church was without a Pastor, Mr Oughton was most actively engaged in supplying the vacant place and in keeping together the church in the time of its need. During his long and useful life, his unswerving integrity impressed itself upon all who became associated with him, and made the firm of which he was the head a guarantee for an honourable and pure administration of the law. His large practice extended to all parts of the island, and many business firms and families will deeply feel the loss of a wise counsellor and true friend.

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Oughton, Thomas

320554

Author Oughton, Marie Abigail

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Title In memoriam, Thomas Oughton.

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